

BEC PRELIMINARY PRACTICE TEST READING

PART SIX

Questions 29 – 40

- Read the article below about Amazon, an online retailer.
- Choose the correct word to fill each gap, from **A**, **B** or **C** on the opposite page.
- For each question **29 – 40**, mark one letter (**A**, **B** or **C**).

AMAZON MOVES INTO SOUTH AFRICA

LAST month, Amazon, an online retailer, **(0)**..... that it had opened a software development centre in Cape Town, South Africa. Amazon chose South Africa **(29)**..... of its pool of IT workers and good infrastructure.

(30)..... to a recent study, South Africa is well placed to **(31)**..... from the trend of firms **(32)**..... business processes, such as customer care, to cheaper places. This could **(33)**..... 100,000 jobs in South Africa as well as **(34)**..... a useful \$90m-175m in foreign investment by 2008.

Demand from American and British firms to do this **(35)**..... forecast to rise from \$10 billion now to maybe \$60 billion by 2008, 40% of **(36)**..... is likely to be in banking and insurance. That is more **(37)**..... countries such as India, China and the Philippines — which meet **(38)**..... of the demand today—are likely to be able to **(39)**..... .

That is **(40)**..... IBM has decided to open a global call-centre for international corporate clients in Johannesburg.

[Adapted from: Offshoring – Into Africa – Economist.com]

